

Kawakami et al.; and claims 5-9, 18-19 and 26-27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Saito et al. in view of Kawakami et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,576,758 to Arai et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Neither Saito nor Kawakami teach or suggest all of the features recited in claims 1, 16 and 24. In particular, none of the references teach or suggest a control device that controls "the preset sound effect will not be output with the sounds that were recorded by the sound recording device when the release switch initiated the predetermined process," as recited in independent claims 1, 16 and 24.

Instead, Saito discloses a camera 2 having a video camera unit 3 and a still camera unit 4. See, e.g., col. 2, lines 45-53, and Figs. 1-2. According to Saito, while a movie picture is being taken by the video camera unit 3, the controller 41 of the camera disables a film wind driver 39 that winds the film and a film rewind driver 43 that rewinds the film to prevent the noise of the film winding and/or rewinding operation.

According to Saito, while the movie picture is being taken by a video unit, the camera permits the operation of taking a still picture, e.g., depressing a shutter bottom and performing a shutter unit operation for exposing the film. The disabling operation disclosed in Saito is only directed to the film winding or rewinding operation. The film winding or rewinding operation occurs after the operation of taking a still picture as described above. In other words, Saito fails to teach or suggest controlling and initiating a sound which occurs when a still picture is taken.

Kawakami discloses an electronic camera 100 in which in order to clearly notify the recording operation to an operator, a tone generating device is arranged so that a pseudo-shutter sound is produced when the recording operation is initiated. See, e.g., col. 4, lines 43-49.

Arai et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of Saito discussed above.

For at least these reasons, one of ordinary skill in the art would not combine Saito in view of Kawakami, or further in view of Arai, to teach, suggest, or render obvious, that "the preset sound effect will not be output with the sounds that were recorded by the sound recording device when the release switch initiated the predetermined process," as recited in independent claims 1, 16 and 24.

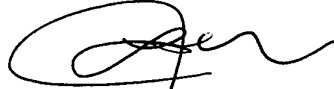
Accordingly, the Office Action has not established a prima facie case of obviousness, as the applied references fail to teach or suggest all of the subject matter of independent claims 1, 16 and 24. Accordingly, the applied references also fail to render obvious the subject matter of claims 2-15, 17, 18-23, 25-31, 36 and 41, which depend from claims 1, 16 and 24 respectively. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is therefore respectfully solicited.

II. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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